

EQUISETUM  $\times$  LITORALE Kuhl.

This horsetail is a hybrid between *E. arvense* and *E. fluviatile*. The spores are abortive. Specimens are known from two counties in northern Illinois, have been deposited in the herbarium of the University of Illinois, and were verified by Dr. Warren H. Wagner, Jr.

BOTANY DEPARTMENT, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS 62901.

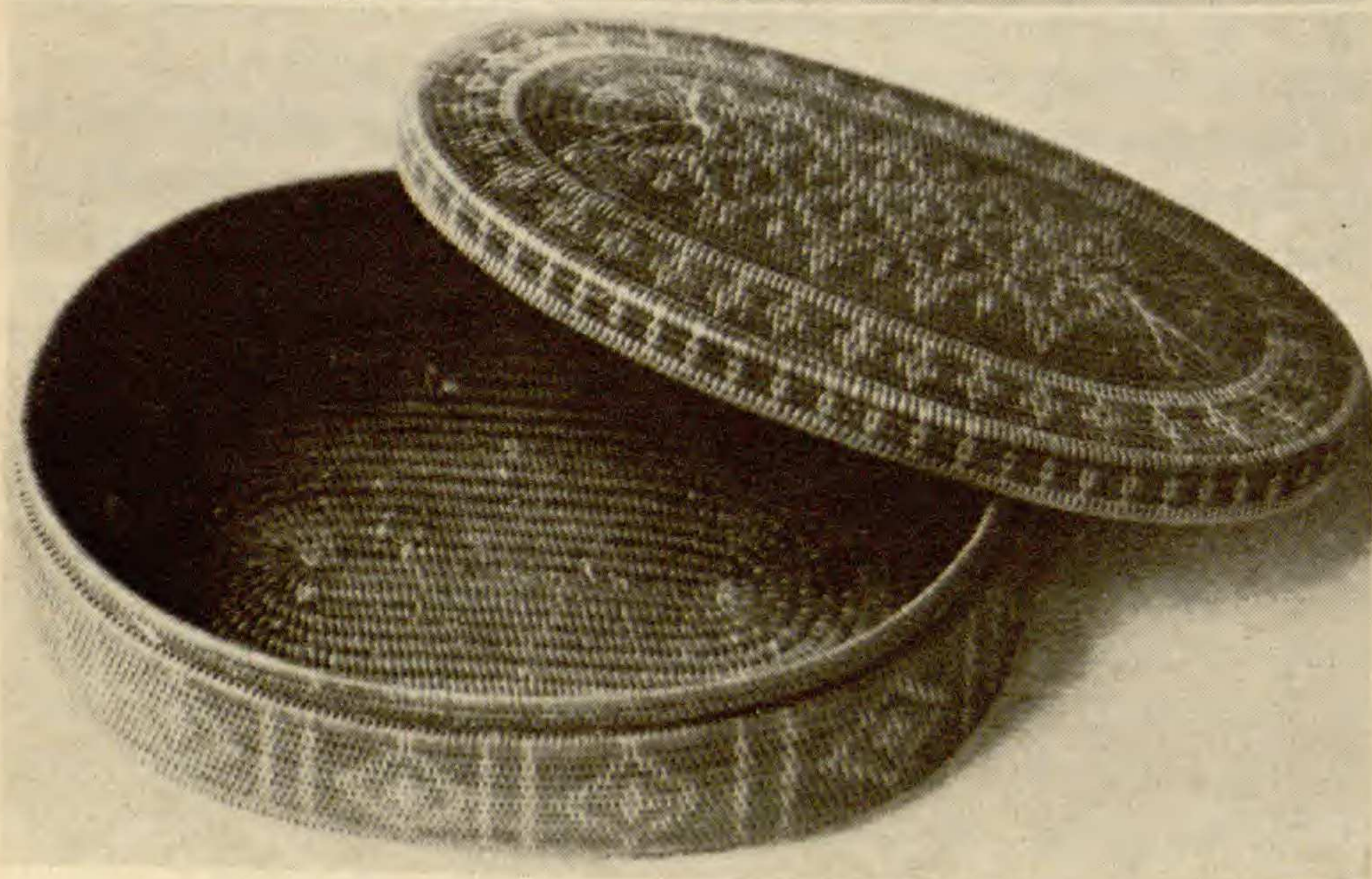
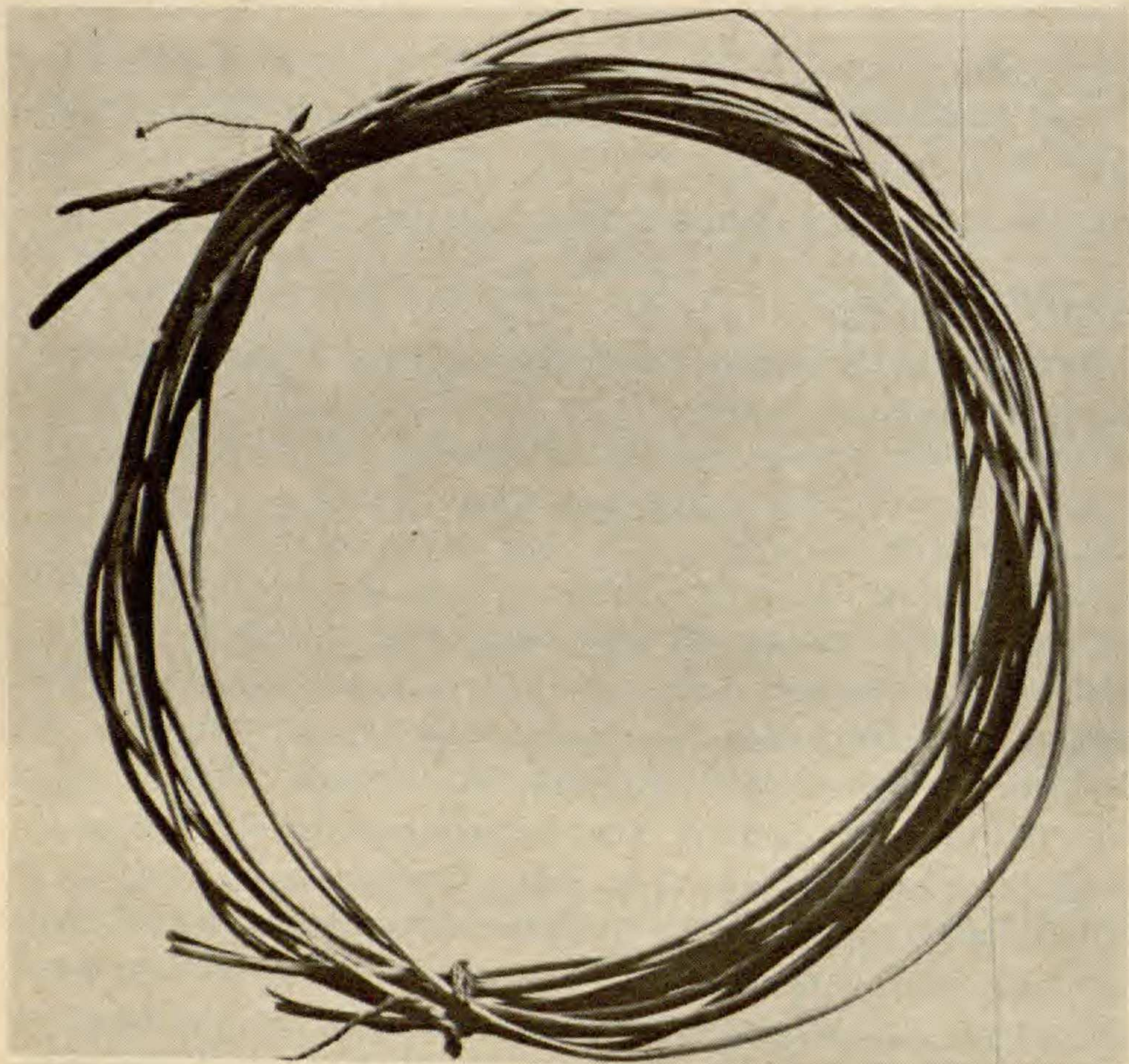
### Shorter Note

THE USE OF CLIMBING FERN, LYGODIUM, IN WEAVING.—It is well known among ethnobotanists that the dark, polished stems of maidenhair, *Adiantum pedatum*, and probably other species, have been used for ornamenting baskets woven by the Indians of western North America, but perhaps it has not been reported that the climbing fern, *Lygodium salicifolium* Presl, is similarly used in southeastern Asia. The rhachis of this fern is rather coarse, normally 1.5 to 2 mm. in diameter, and it may reach extraordinary lengths, up to 40 feet it is said on good authority. Mr. Hugh M. Smith reports that at Patalung in southern Thailand these rhachises are used not just for ornamenting baskets but as the primary weaving material.

The stems of this climbing fern, which is known there locally as "Ya li pao," are dried in the sun, after being stripped of their leaves. They dry various shades of color, and therefore no dyes are needed for weaving patterns. Only the outer part of the stem, which is evidently quite flexible, is employed. This is split into as many pieces as may be required, usually two, three, or four, according usually to the size of the stem.

The weaving of artistic baskets is dying out because of the great amount of time required, for a man needs three or four weeks to complete even a small basket such as that shown in the accompanying illustration (*Fig.2*). Most of the weaving is perhaps now done by prisoners, who possibly find that time is one of the things they have most of.







The species used, *L. salicifolium*, is reported to be rather widespread in southern Asia and Malaysia, extending from Assam to Malaya, Java, Borneo, and New Guinea, but it is apparently nowhere really common. In Thailand it is reported only from the south and is said not to grow so far north as Bangkok. The illustrations (*Figs. 1, 2*) show some stems ready for weaving and a completed basket—C. V. MORTON, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

### Recent Fern Literature

THE GARDENER'S FERN BOOK, by F. Gordon Foster. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey, 1964. 240 pages. 71 line drawings and 16 color photographs by the author plus 18 black-and-white photographs. \$7.95.—A long-felt need among horticulturists and fern enthusiasts has been a book devoted to fern cultivation. I am glad to report that this book quite fills this need, particularly for growers in temperate regions. The author, from his extensive experience, treats both outdoor and indoor cultivation.

Though identification is treated, cultivation is the primary concern, and this is covered most thoroughly. Chapters on characteristics and identification as well as on cultivation and propagation are very detailed and copiously illustrated with excellent photographs and drawings by the author. I do feel that the importance of humidity for ferns in ordinary homes should have received more stress, but this is a minor point.

Experienced growers may be disappointed that only forty hardy ferns and twenty-seven tender kinds are treated individually. However, they will still find a great deal of helpful information. The novice will find all he needs to know to be successful in growing ferns.—DONALD G. HUTTLESTON, *Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348.*

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FIGURE 1. STEMS OF *LYGODIUM SALICIFOLIUM* READY FOR WEAVING. FIGURE 2. BASKET WITH COVER, WOVEN FROM STEMS OF *LYGODIUM SALICIFOLIUM*.